



## Can You Throw Batteries in the Trash?

By Tej Attili, Water Quality Coordinator, 785-486-2601 x7



Alkaline batteries can be safely disposed of with normal household waste. Never dispose of batteries in fire because they could explode. Due to concerns about mercury in the municipal solid waste stream, all major battery companies (including Duracell and Energizer) have eliminated all of the added mercury from alkaline batteries since 1993. Alkaline batteries are composed primarily of common metals and alloys — steel, zinc, and manganese—and do not pose a health or environmental risk when disposed in the landfills.

**Rechargeable batteries**, also known as lithium ion batteries, (includes laptops, mobile phones and cordless drills) **have to be recycled at the Kickapoo Environmental Office or the Jackson County Recycle Center.**

Lithium-ion batteries are common in consumer electronics. They are one of the most popular types of rechargeable battery for portable electronics. Batteries using cathodes with nickel and cobalt are the highest risks for negative health and environmental impacts.

Most rechargeable batteries contain toxic metals that can be released into the environment when improperly disposed.



**Rechargeable batteries should NOT be placed in household trash.**

## We Need Your Help

By Mike Kelley, Brownfields Coordinator, 785-486-2601 x6

During the months of January and February, the Kickapoo Environmental Office is conducting a survey of tribal members and residents, in order to gain a better understanding of non-water related environmental concerns. Your opinions and suggestions can help shape future programs and activities. If you would like make your voice heard, come by our office to pick up a survey, or contact Mike Kelley and arrange to have a survey sent to you.



# The Green Clan

## Controlling Stream Bank Erosion

Kerry Wedel, Watershed Coordinator, 486-2601 x5

Severely eroding stream banks can be a significant contributor of sediment and other pollutants to streams and lakes. The Kickapoo Environmental Office is involved in various activities to address stream bank erosion on the reservation. One activity is to monitor the



Bank pins installed along a KTIK crop field

amount of erosion that is actively occurring at a particular site. This can be done by installing bank pins, which consist of steel bars driven horizontally into an eroding stream bank. As the bank erodes, more of the bars are exposed, which can be measured to determine a rate of erosion (e.g. inches or feet of bank over a certain time period).



Stream bank erosion on the Delaware River adjacent to a KTIK crop field near 100<sup>th</sup> Road

If erosion is severe enough, stabilization projects may be warranted to reduce or prevent future erosion. These projects can be relatively simple at smaller sites such as planting additional vegetation (e.g. willow trees) along the base of the bank to slow down water velocities and reinforce the soil with vegetative root structure. At larger sites, projects may involve reshaping the bank, placing



Stream bank stabilization project at the Pow-wow grounds (2011)

large rocks along the base of the bank to prevent erosion and revegetating the slope with native plant materials, including native trees and grasses planted along the top of the bank for additional protection. A stream bank stabilization project was constructed along the Delaware River at the Pow-wow grounds in 2011. There are currently three other sites on the reservation where similar projects are being implemented with assistance from local and state agencies, including Kickapoo tribal departments.



Willow staking along a KTIK crop





# The Green Clan

## Winter Recycling Activities

By Sonny Fee, Solid Waste Coordinator, 486-2601 x4



Sonny Fee snaps a photo while conducting a workshop for the little ones at the Kickapoo Head Start.. Training to become an Earth defender starts young. Photo taken 11/7/13



Preparing cardboard bales for transport to the recycling center. Photo taken 11/21/13.



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